

Eastern York School District Exceeds Performance Requirements for Math and Reading

All of Eastern York School District's elementary schools, Middle School, and High School exceeded the state's requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress based on 2009 scores on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

In Pennsylvania, school districts must meet a number of requirements to make AYP as part of the No Child Left Behind Act. Those requirements include achieving specific levels of proficiency in reading and math on the PSSA. Students in grades 3 through 8, as well as those in 11th grade, take the PSSA every year. For school districts to meet AYP for the 2008-09 school year, 56 percent of their students must have proficient or advanced PSSA scores in math, and 63 percent of their students must have proficient or advanced PSSA scores in reading. Students who fall into defined subgroups, including racial/ethnic, socio-economic, limited English skills and special education, must also meet the AYP testing requirements. In addition, school districts must also meet yearly targets for attendance and graduation rates, as well as participation rates on the PSSA.

"Eastern York's students, staff, and administrators are to be commended for ensuring that our students have been able to consistently meet or exceed the annual requirements for AYP," said Dr. Darla Pianowski, Superintendent. "I have great confidence that we have the competence and the capability to ensure

that students are successful at meeting or exceeding the expectations as the Pennsylvania Department of Education continues to increase the student achievement benchmarks."

Eastern York's scores were well above the thresholds set by Pennsylvania Department of Education. For example, Kreutz Creek Elementary School students scored at 83.7 percent proficient or advanced in math and 72.3 percent proficient or advanced in reading. Canadochly Elementary School students scored at 80.5 percent proficient or advanced in math and 74.6 percent proficient or advanced in reading. Wrightsville Elementary students scored at 78.9 percent proficient or advanced in math and at 67.6 percent proficient or advanced in reading. Eastern York Middle School students scored at 72.3 percent proficient or advanced in math and 72.4 percent proficient or advanced in reading. Eastern York High School students scored 57.1 percent proficient or advanced in math and 68.5 percent proficient or advanced in reading.

Eastern York School District's entire Professional Learning Community is in the process of reviewing ways to increase the percentage of proficient and advanced scores in math and reading, as well as exploring ways in which we can make the PSSA more meaningful to our students. Benchmark testing and student incentives have been incorporated into the system and targeted students are receiving intensive support.